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and his last years. All this has been accomplished within 131 pages, and it must be said, in tribute to the author's fine taste and skill, with touches of sympathy for the subject that make it a most readable and satisfying book.

PATRICK J. McCORMICK, PH.D.

California: A history of Upper and Lower California from their first discovery to the present time, comprising an account of the climate, soil, natural production, agriculture, commerce, etc.; a full view of the missionary establishments and condition of the free and domesticated Indians. With an appendix relating to steam navigation in the Pacific. Illustrated with a new map, plans of the harbors, and numerous engravings. By Alexander Forbes, Esq. (London, 1839). Reprinted page for page, and approximately line for line, from the original edition. . . . to which is added a new index. San Francisco: Thomas C. Russell, 1919. Pp. 372. Price, \$7.50.

Forbes's *History* is important in the list of *Californiana* for two especial reasons. It is the first English book relating wholly to California, and it presents a foreigner's estimate of the old Spanish colony and Mexican province as it was just before the period of the American immigration. It might be added that it is of prime interest as a faithful record of the attitude of a son of England toward California in those and ensuing days when that country, as well as France and the United States, were each communing with the thought, "It is a goodly land; let us go over and possess it."

The body of the text was written, or rather completed, in Mexico and sent to England for publication in 1835. The printing was delayed for three years, and it is due to that circumstance that the author was able to send to his brother the editor additional materials bearing upon the international interest in California after the temporary separation from Mexico in 1836 and upon the projected beginnings of steam navigation as a mode of bringing the fringe of the world nearer to the seats of power in Europe. The emphasis being on those topics, the historical narrative of earlier times is not so valuable as the contemporary material, though indeed there are few better histories of California, considering the availability of the materials for historical

writing at the time, or even the use made of later materials by numerous authors in the same field.

The section relating to Lower California is taken perforce almost entirely from the Venegas *Noticia de la California*, which was written about a century before Forbes undertook his work. This necessarily sympathetic recital of the early conquest and conversion of the Peninsular Indians is followed by one of the most complete and interesting accounts in existence of the pearl fisheries of the Gulf, gathered from information given by Alexander von Humboldt and a number of later authorities, most of whom were English sea-captains.

The account of the spiritual conquest of Upper California is, of course, taken from the *Noticias de la Nueva California* by Father Palou, while the description of the topography of the country is based on the manuscript records of those staunch old Franciscan explorers, Fathers Garcés, Font, Domínguez, and Vélez de Escalante. The purpose of the author in using them is naively set forth in the following words: "The journeys of these friars are chiefly valuable in as far as they prove that there is nothing in the character of the Indian population of the country lying between the people, Mexican states and California, which can prevent its being easily colonized, or which could prevent a free communication overland; neither is the distance at all formidable. It is also proved by them that the whole of this vast country is free from any natural obstruction to its settlement and cultivation. There are no impenetrable forests, and the greater part of it is a level country, full of pasturage, and capable of being cultivated" (p. 160).

The author's opinion regarding the character and quality of the spiritual conquest is not wholly censorious. "From the feeble and mild physical and moral characters of the natives. . . . the success of the missionaries . . . is . . . very easily understood. . . . Had they been set down among . . . the fierce races . . . they never would have succeeded in . . . domesticating them, but could have been destroyed or driven from the country" (p. 199). ". . . However . . . there are few events in history more remarkable, on the whole, or more interesting, than the transformation on the great scale wrought by the Jesuits and Franciscans in Paraguay and California" (p. 200). After point-

ing out certain defects of the mission system, Forbes goes on: "And yet I have never heard that the missionaries of California have not acted with the most perfect fidelity, or that they have ever betrayed their trust or exercised inhumanity, and the testimony of all travelers who have visited this country is uniformly to the same effect. On the contrary, there are recorded instances of the most extraordinary zeal, industry, and philanthropy in the conduct of those men. . . ." [notably Father Péyri] (p. 227 *ff*).

Nevertheless, since he found the savage reduced from barbarism "only to be plunged in another sort of barbarism and an aggravated sort of misery" (p. 233), "all that we can allow is, that the missionaries are honest men; that they pursue with assiduity what they believe to be their duty; that they labor in their vocation with zeal. But we entirely condemn their system, and lament its results." After bewailing in general the missionary work of civilization, he goes on: "I do not despair that the time will come when . . . prudent men will be sent among the heathens, carrying with them Bibles and tracts certainly, but also agricultural and manufacturing implements, useful mechanical inventions, furniture, and clothing, with instructions to reclaim the savage not merely by the terror of future punishments, but likewise by the fascination of a more comfortable worldly existence" (pp. 237-8). That is to say, Forbes could live for years alongside the missions and see them at work without realizing that they had always been doing just the things he advocated. His criticism is an injustice born of faulty observation. Equally beside the mark, too, is his doleful picture of the missionary work of the "spare, sour, ascetic Methodist, who takes from his followers all their pastimes and pleasures" (p. 245). The obvious fact is that the author was a merchant, a successful business man, a dispassionate thinker and fairly reasonable, but by the same mark no judge of missionary activities, which he might have become had he given a little closer attention to the results of the labors of the great missionary pioneers who have borne their honorable part in carrying the amenities of civilization and the blessings of religion whither the merchant with bundle and stick has been ever glad to penetrate in their wake.

The first foreign account of the separation of California from Mexico in 1836 is briefly used as the text for the advice that it

was not from the Russians, whom the British believed to have designs on California, but from the on-sweeping settlers from the United States, that the next political move was to be expected. Forbes, of course, hoped that California would be taken by the English to cancel the Mexican debt of over fifty million dollars, the creditors to be organized on the plan of the East India Company.

The picture of the agriculture, commerce, and navigation in the primitive state of those occupations in the old Mexican California lead quite naturally to the topic of the author's greatest interest, California as a field for foreign colonization. The natural advantages of geographical situation, topographical relations, fertile soil, superb ports, abundant rivers, equable climate, and proximity to world markets are set forth as they have been so often by the hosts of "boosters" of these latter days. The Isthmian railway and the canal are forecast with an optimism tempered by the opinion "that all attempts to make a passage between the two oceans will be abortive unless the territory through which the canal passes shall be ceded in sovereignty to some powerful European state or put under the guaranty of a convention of European states," because the Spanish-American republics lack the stability and the liberality indispensable for the success of such an undertaking (p. 317).

California was for the moment an unpromising field for colonization because of the uncertainty of its political relations and the anarchy due to separation from Mexico. However, the few foreigners who had come had always found a welcome, particularly from the missionaries. Forbes recommended a compact foreign colony which should take a strong position in the Sacramento Valley, away from the missions and the towns, so as to avoid local complications; all this presupposing a more liberal policy on the part of the Mexican government.

While the book was a very ostensible piece of propaganda, it was ably and carefully written, in dignified and thoroughly readable style unusually free from historical inaccuracies, offensive characterizations, or indefensible attitudes.

The author was one of the founders of the English house of Barron, Forbes and Company, wholesale merchants of Tepic, Mexico. Previously he had been in business in Buenos Aires

He was one of the early owners of the New Almaden quicksilver mine in the present Santa Clara County, California. He is well known in local annals as one of the few foreigners who laid the basis of their fortunes in the old California of the days before the gold rush. His book has become a rare item much sought for by collectors; a copy of the original edition recently brought \$150.00, though the current price is about one-third that figure.

The publisher, therefore, performs a valuable service to lovers of Californiana by issuing this reprint. He has also done this in the case of the scarce *Narrative of Edward McGowan*, and has in hand a like project for the reproduction of the diary of the Antonio Maurelle voyage on the California coasts.

In each of these publications Mr. Russell has made page-for-page or even line-for-line reproductions. He performs the work in all stages with his own hands, and, being an old book-publisher with definite ideas as to style and form, he has dressed the old favorites in new and more attractive garb which pleases the eye and satisfies the lover of book perfection. Typographical and editorial mistakes in the originals are corrected, and varying usages are harmonized. The principles upon which the corrections are based are shown in prefatory pages.

The illustrations of Forbes, taken from the original imprint have, in a limited number of the edition, been hand-tinted. The publisher has added a valuable index.

HERBERT I. PRIESTLEY, PH.D.

The Book of Philadelphia, by Robert Shackleton, author of *The Book of Boston*, *The Book of New York*, *Unvisited Places of Old Europe*, etc. Illustrated with photographs and drawings by R. L. Boyer and Herbert Pullinger. Philadelphia: The Penn Publishing Company, 1918. Pp. 420, 8vo.

“The typical Philadelphian,” says our author (p. 195), “is likely to feel a fine sense of certainty. One of the historical writers of the city—there are several, so it may be any one of them—was telling me of a work on which he was engaged which was to cover a period which, as I knew, is notable for the conflict of authorities. I made some obvious remark regarding the difficulties he had set himself to surmount; but he only replied, calmly: ‘There will be no